

[4th March 1925]

A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to supplemental statistics Nos. 36 and 56 in Volume II of the Report on Public Instruction for 1923-24.

(b) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 1825, Law (Education), dated 24th November 1924, which contains the particulars available with the Government. Local bodies and the Director of Public Instruction will be instructed to furnish the additional particulars required by the hon. Member when submitting their reports for 1924-25 on the admission of pupils of the depressed classes into schools under public management.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ With reference to (b) of the question, I find from the Government Order referred to in the answer that the Government themselves are agreed that the local bodies in the South Arcot district as well as in other districts are not co-operating with the inspecting officers in the matter of free admission of pupils of depressed classes. Since they have disobeyed the Government Order, I wish to know from the hon. the Minister for Education whether he is not going to take any stringent measure with reference to withdrawing the grant for such schools.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ We advise them to follow the spirit of the Government Order and if they do not follow in making free admission of all classes of boys into the public schools, then the question suggested by my hon. Friend, namely, whether drastic steps should be taken or not in regard to the subsidies given to them, will be considered.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether they are now denying admission to members of the depressed classes ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ My information is that they have chosen to abide by the advice of the Government and are willing to admit all classes of boys into the schools. If there is any specific instance where a school managed by a public body has not admitted the boys of the depressed classes, certainly action will be taken against it.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether the policy of the Government is to start separate schools for members of the depressed classes ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I would deprecate that question for two reasons. As a general rule, questions should not be put about policy. Secondly, we have reached 12 o'clock and we have done only about 23 questions and there are 6 or 7 more. Hon. Members will kindly use some discretion in asking only necessary supplemental questions. Otherwise, I shall be obliged to pass on to the next order of the day.”

Co-operation.

Lending rates of primary societies.

* 324 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some assistant registrars issued, even prior to March 1924, circulars insisting on the primary societies lowering their lending rates by $1\frac{2}{3}$ th per cent, whereas the financing central bank reduced their rates only by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ;

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(b) whether the Registrar of Co-operative Societies had previously approved of the issue of such circulars ;

(c) in how many and in what districts such circulars were issued ;

(d) whether co-operative societies protested against such action of the assistant registrars ;

(e) whether he will be pleased to give a list of primary co-operative societies in the district of North Arcot which were thus made to reduce their rates of interest by (i) $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum, (ii) by $\frac{1}{16}$ th per cent per annum and (iii) $1\frac{9}{16}$ th per cent per annum ;

(f) whether the provincial bank wanted the primary societies to reduce their rates only by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum ; and

(g) if so, what action, if any, has been taken in the case of assistant registrars in thus coercing primary societies to unduly reduce their rates of interest ?

A.—(a) & (e) A conference of representatives of all co-operative financing banks, including the Madras Central Bank and the Provincial Co-operative Conference, discussed the question of reduction in the rate of interest in December 1922. Thereafter the Assistant Registrars brought to the notice of primary societies by circulars and otherwise the resolution of the conference and suggested to them the desirability of reducing the rate of interest.

(b) The Registrar's previous approval to the circulars was not necessary.

(d) No.

(e) The information is not available.

(f) The Provincial Bank desired primary societies to reduce their rates of interest by at least $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

(g) There was no coercion in the matter. The Government have no reason to think that the reduction in the rate of interest was excessive.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ With reference to (e) of the question, may I know why the information is not available, and what the difficulty in getting it is ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ The difficulty is in getting tabulated information for about 500 societies.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ The question does not relate to all the societies ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ It is only by collecting the information from all these 500 societies that we would be in a position to give the required answer.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ With regard to (g), the answer is that there was no coercion in the matter. I understand from a reliable authority that loans were refused to such societies as did not adopt the reduction recommended by the Assistant Registrar. Will the hon. Minister kindly look into the matter ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ If particulars are given, certainly I shall enquire.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ I believe I have given particulars. If necessary, I have no objection to repeat them.”